

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /078 W  
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R 011221Z MAY 78  
FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1992  
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON  
COMUSFORAZ  
USCINCEUR  
CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PONTA DELGADA 0280

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO  
SUBJECT: AZORES MILITARY COMMANDER'S VIEWS ON RECENT  
AZOREAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: PONTA DELGADA 0266(DTG 201325Z APR 78); PONTA DELGADA  
0273(DTG 261530Z APR 78)(BOTH CABLES NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE AZORES MILITARY REGION COMMANDER BELIEVES THE  
SOARES GOVERNMENT IS DELIBERATELY FOSTERING UNREST, OR AT LEAST  
THE IMPRESSION OF UNREST, IN THE AZORES WITH THE AIM OF BRINGING  
ABOUT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE PSD-CONTROLLED REGIONAL GOVERNMENT.  
HE IS ALSO DISTURBED BY WHAT HE SEES AS A SOCIALIST ATTEMPT TO  
ENTANGLE THE MILITARY IN THE PARTY'S AZOREAN MACHINATIONS.  
END SUMMARY.

1. ACCEPTS SOCIALIST CONSPIRACY THEORY: MILITARY COMMANDER FOR  
THE AZORES GENERAL CARLOS JOSE ALVES MORGADO TOLD AMCONSUL APRIL  
28 THAT HE HAS COME TO ACCEPT AS TRUE THE WIDELY ACCEPTED VIEW  
HERE THAT THE SOARES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY SEEKING TO  
CREATE UNREST IN THE AZORES. ACCORDING TO ALVES MORGADO, THE  
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SOCIALISTS' ULTIMATE GOAL WAS TO PROVOKE DISORDER IN THE REGION,  
OR AT LEAST CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF DISORDER, ON SUCH A SCALE  
THAT PRESIDENT RAMALHO EANES WOULD BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT THEIR  
EVENTUAL RECOMMENDATION THAT HE DISSOLVE THE PSD-CONTROLLED  
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT (RGA) ON THE PRETEXT THAT THE RGA WAS NOT  
CAPABLE OF GOVERNING. HE HAD BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF PS INTENTIONS AS  
A RESULT OF WHAT HE SAW WAS THE CALCULATEDLY ABRASIVE TIMING OF

THE ALMEIDA SANTOS VISIT, THE SOARES GOVERNMENT'S INFLAMMATORY AND UNNECESSARY DISPATCH OF RIOT POLICE TO PONTA DELGADA AND THE HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE MANNER OF THE ARREST OF FIVE PERSONS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE ASSAULT AGAINST ALMEIDA SANTOS. HOWEVER, HE FINALLY HAD BEEN PERSUADED TO ACCEPT THIS EXPLANATION OF SOARES GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AFTER A CONVERSATION WITH A RETIRED CHIEF OF STAFF OF A FORMER AZORES MILITARY REGION COMMANDER WHO, HE SAID, HAD JUST BROUGHT "CONFIRMATION" (ON WHICH HE DID NOT ELABORATE) FROM LISBON. HE WAS NOW WONDERING WHETHER THE SOCIALISTS WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED LABOR FRONT'S (INTER-SINDICAL) REPORTED SENDING OF 150 MAINLAND MILITANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS IN ANGRA DO HEROISMO, TERCEIRA, AN ACT HE TERMED AS HIGHLY PROVOCATIVE.

2. DOES NOT WANT MILITARY INVOLVED: GENERAL ALVES MORGADO WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED THAT THE SOCIALISTS SEEMED TO WANT TO EMBROIL THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY IN THEIR POLITICAL MACHINATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE CLAIMED THAT THE SOCIALISTS HAD DELIBERATELY SPREAD THE RUMOR THAT PARATROOPERS HAD BEEN SENT TO PONTA DELGADA APRIL 23 TO ESCORT THE FIVE ARRESTEES IN THE ALMEIDA SANTOS INCIDENT BACK TO LISBON (REFTELS). THAT INFORMATION WAS TOTALLY FALSE, HE SAID. THE ARRESTS WERE WHOLLY A POLICE OPERATION

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
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-----127572 020557Z /21

R 011221Z MAY 78  
FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PONTA DELGADA 0280

ORDERED AND CONTROLLED BY THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT. HE WAS FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT THE AZOREANS UNDERSTOOD THE DISTINCTION AND THAT WHAT HE SAW WAS AN ATTEMPT TO TURN THE AZOREAN PEOPLE AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY HAD FAILED.

3. IDEA INSANE: ALVES MORGADO TERMED THE ALLEGED SOCIALIST PLAN TO BRING DOWN THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AS "INSANE". IF THE SOCIALISTS WERE EVER SUCCESSFUL IN CONVINCING PRESIDENT EANES TO DISSOLVE THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED RGA, THE AZOREAN PEOPLE'S REACTION WOULD BE VIOLENT, AND THE LONG RUN CONSEQUENCES FOR PORTUGAL IN THE REGION "GRAVE". HOWEVER, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE TAKEN IN, AND ONCE AGAIN EXONERATED EANES FROM ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RECENT SOARES GOVERNMENT ACTIONS CONCERNING THE AZORES. WHILE NERVOUS ABOUT THE LOCAL REACTION TO THE REPORTED PRESENCE OF 150 CONTINENTAL INTERSINDICAL COMMUNIST MILITANTS FOR THE MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS IN ANGRA DO HEROISMO, TERCEIRA, HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE AZOREANS WOULD NOT PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE SOCIALISTS BY RESPONDING WITH VIOLENCE.

4. COMMENT: ARMY GENERAL ALVES MORGADO, MUCH DECORATED FOR HIS  
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SERVICE IN THE AFRICAN WARS, WAS IMPRISONED FOR NINE MONTHS IN 1975 ON CHARGES (OF WHICH HE WAS LATER CLEARED) OF COMPLICITY IN THE ABORTIVE SPINOLA COUP. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT HE IS A COMMITTED ANTI-COMMUNIST WHO ADMITS TO A CERTAIN ADMIRATION FOR THE STAUNCHLY ANTI-COMMUNIST SYMPATHIES OF THE AZOREAN PEOPLE. HE ALSO HAS LITTLE USE FOR THE SOCIALISTS, WHOM HE SOMETIMES TENDS TO LUMP TOGETHER WITH THE COMMUNISTS. OBVIOUSLY THIS BIAS HAS COLORED HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT'S RECENT AZOREAN ACTIONS. HIS OPINION IS IMPORTANT, NONETHELESS, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS AND BECAUSE HIS VIEW COINCIDES ESSENTIALLY WITH THAT HELD BY THE REGIONAL COMMANDER OF THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE AND THE REGIONAL COMMANDER OF THE PORTUGUESE NAVY. ALSO SIGNIFICANT IS HIS CONVICTION THAT THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH, AND ITS REPUTATION SULLIED BY, WHAT HE SEES AS A PURELY POLITICAL MANEUVER BY THE SOARES GOVERNMENT.  
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